



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/572,607	03/20/2006	Manfred Geier	014881-000723	7122

24239 7590 03/09/2009  
MOORE & VAN ALLEN PLLC  
P.O. BOX 13706  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

EXAMINER
----------

WILSON, LEE D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3727

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

03/09/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/572,607	<b>Applicant(s)</b> GEIER ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> LEE D. WILSON	<b>Art Unit</b> 3727	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                          |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *The Previous Office Action has been Vacated*

1. Please vacate the previous office action filed on 2/4/09.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blank et al (6578837) in view of Liou (6474632).

- a. Blank et al discloses a clamping and spreading tool having stationary jaw (2), movable jaw (1), pull rod (3), gearing spring (22), centering spring (4), slide mechanism (31), and a lock (15). In regard to the force dissipating mechanism this is merely the structure of the invention because the locks, gears, cants, will all perform these recited functions.

- b. Blank et al discloses the claimed invention except for gear mechanism.

- c. All the claimed elements were known in the prior art such as Liou a clamping and spreading tool having stationary jaw (6), a movable jaw (61), a gear mechanism (12), and a pull rod (2) and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions and the combinations would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention.

Art Unit: 3727

4. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liou (6655670) in view of Liou (6474632).

d. Liou discloses a clamping and spreading tool having stationary jaw (fig.4), movable jaw (12), pull rod (13), gearing spring (11), centering spring (10), slide mechanism (6), and a lock (1). In regard to the force dissipating mechanism this is merely the structure of the invention because the locks, gears, cants, will all perform these recited functions.

e. Liou discloses the claimed invention except for gear mechanism.

f. All the claimed elements were known in the prior art such as Liou a clamping and spreading tool having stationary jaw (6), a movable jaw (61), a gear mechanism (12), and a pull rod (2) and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions and the combinations would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention.

5. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Art (2003/013793 WO American Tool Company, Inc) in view of Liou (6474632).

g. Admitted Prior Art (2003/013793 WO American Tool Company, Inc) discloses a clamping and spreading tool having stationary jaw (116), movable jaw (102), pull rod (104), gearing spring (11), centering spring (150), slide mechanism (146), and a lock (180). In regard to the force dissipating mechanism

Art Unit: 3727

this is merely the structure of the invention because the locks, gears, cants, will all perform these recited functions.

h. Admitted Prior Art (2003/013793 WO American Tool Company, Inc) discloses the claimed invention except for gear mechanism.

i. All the claimed elements were known in the prior art such as Liou a clamping and spreading tool having stationary jaw (6), a movable jaw (61), a gear mechanism (12), and a pull rod (2) and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions and the combinations would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention.

### ***Response to Arguments***

**6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.**

j. The rejection has raised new issues that were addressed. The applicant contacted the examiner to have the Finality removed and this was done, therefore please respond to this instant action.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LEE D. WILSON whose telephone number is 571-272-4499. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH.

Art Unit: 3727

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MONICA CARTER can be reached on 571-272-4475. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ldw

/LEE D WILSON/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3727

March 3, 2009